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Henri Temianka Correspondence; (price)

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CALIFORNIA CHAMBER SYMPHONY SOCIETY, INC.

6360 WILSHIRE BLVD., SUITE 1715, LOS ANGELES, CA 90048 • (213) 655-9044

September 8, 1981

Mr. Vincent Price
1359 Miller Drive
Los Angeles, California 90069

My dear Vincent:

On Sunday evening, November 15, I am giving an orchestra concert at Royce Hall, UCLA, devoted to the music of Mozart and Salieri, inspired by the current Amadeus play running on Broadway. As you of course know, Mozart on his deathbed suspected Salieri of having poisoned him. The suspicion has never been laid to rest, Rimsky-Korsakov wrote an opera on it, and in recent times new scientific evidence has come to light strengthening the suspicion that Mozart was indeed murdered.

Because you are probably the only man alive who combines extraordinary erudition in the arts with a diabolical expertise in the fine points of foul murder, it occurred to me that a brief panel discussion, with your participation, at the start of the concert, could be enlightening, entertaining and provocative. Salieri, in his later years, confessed to the murder and was locked up under suspicion of having gone mad.

Looking at the subject in a larger context, is it really conceivable that a creative artist would actually murder a more successful or talented colleague? The only distant parallel I can think of is Verlaine trying to kill Rimbaud. But that was really a lover's quarrel. The renaissance composer Gesualdo had his wife and her lover executed, but she was not an artist, except possibly in bed.

It would be interesting to explore the subject from the viewpoint of Peter Shaffer's play, as well as Pushkin, possibly with a prominent stage director joining us. I would not make the choice without your approval. I would also welcome the views of a prominent composer, such as my old friend Gian Carlo Menotti, if he happens to be somewhere in the vicinity.



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Mr. Vincent Price
September 8, 1981
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I would love to discuss this with you, and would greatly
look forward to a long overdue reunion.

Yours always,

Henri

Henri Temianka

HT/lbj